



MLK Day of Service, p.12



Artful Afternoon, p.12



PHOTO BY GLENN HARRIS

A color guard from the Bowie Police Department, led by Chief John Nesky, participates in the funeral procession for Corporal Christine Peters on January 22. See more photos, page 9.

## Childs to Step Down After Three Years at GNR Helm

by Cathie Meetre

After three years at the helm of the Greenbelt News Review, Editor Gary Childs is moving on to pursue other life objectives. Editor Emerita Mary Lou Williamson has graciously agreed to step back into the editor role until the newspaper completes its search for a new long-term editor. This search, due to the pandemic, is currently on hold. The editorial staff is reorganizing itself and its processes to smooth the transition and keep the paper running as efficiently as ever in the interim.

### Lively Approach

During his tenure as editor, Childs has expanded the paper's emphasis on sports and business news. Under his sway, the News Review has kept its familiar look while emphasizing a lively and pictorial approach to reporting. He describes achieving this balance as a "mixture of art and science." Childs also noted that, when he took on the role, he had no idea how much he would need to learn. He spoke of

See EDITOR, page 2

### Black History

## All of Greenbelt Is Invited To Celebrate Black History

by Lois Rosado and Leeann Irwin

*Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com).*

Unity-Umoja: Unifying our community as we strengthen our city.

This year the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee has an exciting array of virtual programs and one Popup Museum Exhibit of Black Artifacts. Their theme is Umoja, taken from the Swahili language, which means Unity. The picture shows the Adinkra symbol for unity which comes from the Gyaman people of Ghana and the Ivory Coast.



Greenbelt is a diverse city and most of the inhabitants appreciate its connections to the country's history and growth. The committee's goal is to enlighten and entertain residents of Greenbelt, as they celebrate the many contributions made by Black Americans to make America a great nation and strengthen the bonds of community.

Programs will begin on Saturday, February 6 and continue

until February 28. Some performances are intended for youngsters and youth. Young people will delight in the puppet shows that will be presented for Artful Afternoon and the Poetry Slam that features youth from various public schools in the county. The entire program is printed on page 5, and weekly offerings will be highlighted.

The committee is appreciative of Greenbelt Recreation staff for their support and guidance in helping to present these virtual programs. The Greenbelt Museum will feature stories from Black Americans who helped to desegregate Greenbelt. They will be interviewed by Councilmember Emmett Jordan. GATE will broadcast weekly historical factoids. The recreation department will highlight four Americans who made significant contributions in

See BLACK HISTORY, page 8

## County Still Behind the Curve But Locals Start to Get Shots

by Cathie Meetre

*Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com).*

Despite delivering more doses in the last week than previously and getting over the 25,000-shot barrier for first vaccinations, Prince George's County still lags well behind any other county in Maryland as a percentage – though it's rising fast. Using the county's updated numbers (which are not yet included in the state website), first doses have been given to about 3 percent of residents – double last week's ratio. Montgomery County is at ~4.66 percent of its somewhat larger population, with Talbot County having the largest percentage vaccinated (10.7) and Baltimore County the largest count of first vaccinations at just over 56,000 or 6.9 percent of the population.

Sample statistics show the percentage of population vaccinated and total first/second vaccinations. Counties with small populations, like Talbot, tend to have disproportionately higher percentages. Baltimore and Montgomery Counties and Baltimore City (32,398/5.5 percent) are more like Prince George's in being urban. For the latest available state numbers see [coronavirus.maryland.gov/#Vaccine](https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/#Vaccine) – click on Vaccine Data.

### Overbooking

Potential Greenbelt recipients, lacking any sense of security

that they'll get a slot through the county, are signing up at every outlet they can locate on the web. As a result, because these sites are not coordinated, resources may be wasted when the extra appointments individuals ultimately receive aren't needed and result in effort spent on resched-

uling or appointments gone to waste. This is also likely to lead to overbooking issues as sites preemptively add more appointments than they actually have so that they don't have empty spaces – just like airlines – and then more show up than expected.

### Purge Acceleration

Intervention with Prince George's County by Mayor Colin Byrd accelerated the purging from the county's vaccination appointments of non-residents, opening up significantly more slots for residents.

The addition of phase 1C on Monday, January 25, significantly increases the pool of eligible individuals. This phase includes ages 65 to 74 and additional front-line workers and is estimated to be about 90,000 strong in the county. A local commentator on the Greenbelt Facebook page describes it as "a lottery," and another bewails that there are forms to fill out for every ticket.

See VACCINE, page 8



PHOTO BY SYLVIA LEWIS

Robert Lewis proudly sports his vaccination sticker and new Kaiser Permanente mask after he receives his first vaccination at the Kaiser facility in Largo.

## ACE Grants Fund Programs And Food at Local Schools

by Jon Gardner

At the Greenbelt City Council meeting on Monday, January 25, council approved 17 Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) grants to four local schools, for a total of \$8,049.47. Council also approved ACE's recommendation to allocate an additional \$3,600 to address food insecurity issues at the six schools that serve Greenbelt students.

ACE grants are available to teachers and parent-teacher organizations at Greenbelt schools. The grants are given in response to proposals for projects or items that enhance or enrich school-based activities. Proposals for

teacher development projects are also solicited. The grants program is funded by the City of Greenbelt, and the selection of proposals for funding was made by the council based on recommendations from ACE.

This year the proposal submission process was moved entirely online. Some projects will be possible while schools are virtual and will be funded immediately. Other projects will be funded once school is back in person.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) won three grants,

See ACE, page 8



PHOTO BY MARY LOU WILLIAMSON

This white-flowered hellebore blooms from Christmas through March.

### What Goes On

**Thursday, January 28**  
7:30 p.m. Four Cities Meeting

**Monday, February 1**  
8 p.m. Council Worksession: Covid-19 Relief Spending/Housing Security

**Wednesday, February 3**  
8 p.m. Council Worksession: Pre-Budget Meeting  
All council meetings are virtual. See the meetings calendar at [greenbeltnmd.gov](http://greenbeltnmd.gov) for agendas and information on public participation in these meetings.



# Letters to the Editor

## Be a Good Neighbor

As the Covid-19 cases continue to rise and jobs and businesses continue to disappear, the toll on our residents goes unabated. Consider donating stimulus checks to the City of Greenbelt's Good Samaritan Fund or the Emergency Assistance Fund to help our neighbors in need.

Jon Bell

## Oh! What a State I'm in! Maryland!

Remember that State slogan from the '70s? It was Maryland's attempt to compete with "Virginia is for Lovers." Personally, I liked Maryland's short-lived slogan: I thought it was a very clever play on words. Much better than "Maryland is for Crabs."

Now, the rejected slogan can easily refer to the inept rollout of the Covid-19 vaccination. According to Beckers Hospital Review, as of January 22, Maryland's state ranking was 35th out of 50 at 39.7 percent doses administered versus doses distributed to the state. It would appear that short-supply is not the problem at the state level. Nationally, no state has administered all their allotted vaccine. The most efficient state in this metric is our neighbor, West Virginia at 72.28 percent. They must have it too easy with scattered population, mountains and twisting roads,

compared with Maryland's large population centers.

Is it the state or county governments that exhibit this blasé attitude toward the vaccine rollout? How many Marylanders have to die before the state and county governments get their act together? Where is the outrage?

Could it be that there is a resistance of individuals to getting the vaccine? WTOP stated in their Friday, January 22, news broadcast that over one third of the health care professionals in the country have refused the vaccine! Some hospitals are offering a \$500 bonus to get the shot, among other incentives.

Well, Prince George's County must be doing something right. According to NBC Washington news, "As many as 50 percent of people getting vaccinations in Prince George's County are from Montgomery and other counties." Montgomery County officials claim a shortage of the vaccine drove their residents to another county's services. Did the state get the county distribution wrong? If Montgomery County really did use all their supply, and half of our county's appointments, what does that say about our county's inoculation plan?

Prince George's County now does have a pre-registration online form that needs to be completed before getting an appointment. The websites the county

created can be summed up in a short phrase: too complex, and inadequate for the load, therefore mostly broken. Our county is not alone. Florida had to put the brakes on inoculation tourism.

Finally, people with "appointments" in our county are waiting 2.5 hours and more to get their shot, according to WUSA9.

Where is the urgency? Hey folks, getting the vaccine administered IS a matter of LIFE and DEATH! Get on the stick!

Frank Kayser  
(See Editor's note in box).

**Editor's Note:** On Tuesday, January 26, Prince George's County discontinued using the original Covid-19 vaccination sign-up website (which was the state's) that required so much information and gave slots to non-residents. The county's new preregistration form (<https://covid19vaccination.princegeorgescountymd.gov/>) is much simpler, requires no photographs and is filled out only once to cover county vaccination sites. The county has cancelled appointments made by nonresidents – freeing up some hundreds more appointments daily for residents.

## Service or Garden Side



B. Glee

## Corrections

The article on page 12 of last week's issue should have been called "Houses of Worship Are Now Coping with Covid".

The Celebration of Life service for Jerry Gough in the January 21 issue of the News Review gave an incorrect date. The Celebration of Life service for Gough will be held on Saturday, January 30 at 4 p.m. Go to [gatheringus.com/memorial/gerald-f-gough/6265](https://gatheringus.com/memorial/gerald-f-gough/6265) for the Zoom link.



## EDITOR continued from page 1

the complexities not only of the newspaper production process, but of the paper's own vibe and its relationship with the city and its residents.

During a recent meeting, the newspaper's board thanked Childs for his service and dedication, noting that it is very much to his credit that for almost one-third of his time with the paper and while working 100 percent remotely, he successfully coped with the various difficulties resulting from the Covid-19 epidemic.

### Keeping the Faith

Williamson has remained firmly attached to a newspaper she has nurtured for most of her adult life. During Childs' tenure, she has continued to provide senior-level copy editing and offered expert guidance and feedback on everything from commas to curmudgeons. Williamson also provides the perspective of decades of knowledge of the newspaper, the city and the personalities.

The editorial team surrounding her these coming months is intent on providing her with every assistance to ensure clear sailing and, for a few weeks in February, Childs will also remain on call to help out if necessary.

### Managing Editor

Key player Amy Hansen is returning to the newspaper in the role of managing editor, reporting to Williamson. For the next few months she will be responsible for integrating the gathering and preparation of copy for publication – recommending stories, assigning writers, supporting students and shepherding material through the editing and production process. Hansen's educational background in journalism and lifetime experience in the field prepare her well for

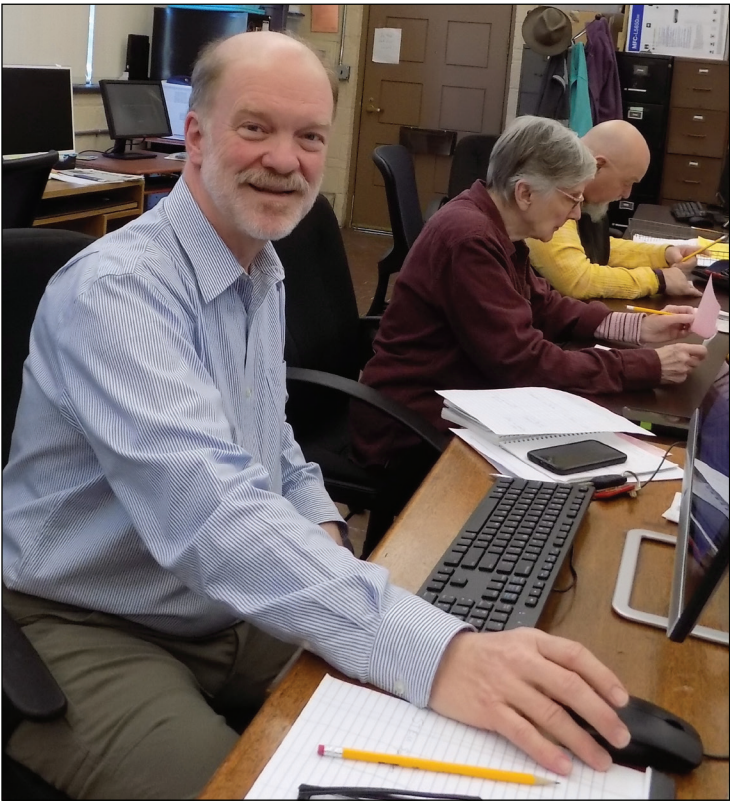


PHOTO BY AMY HANSEN

**Gary Childs works in the News Review office on a Tuesday afternoon before the pandemic.**

this position, which signals her return to the paper following a sabbatical she spent writing her most recent book.

### Editor Search

The News Review hopes to find a new editor in the next several months, after its members are able to gather again in the newsroom. While the newspaper has been successfully produced every week, the camaraderie and social contact of the newsroom have been sorely missed since production went to mostly remote access in March 2020. When normal operations resume, the recruitment process can include visits, introductions and interviews that will improve the selection

process for both the applicants and the newspaper.

Notwithstanding the hiatus in actively searching for an editor, those potentially interested in the role are encouraged to contact the newspaper at [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com) at any time with a statement of interest.



Vaya a nuestra página web [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com) para ver artículos en español.

# Greenbelt News Review

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Mary Lou Williamson, Editor Emerita  
Gary Childs, Editor

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit), Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.  
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.  
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.



# Local Scientists Raise Concerns About Maglev Project Impacts

by Amy Carpenter-Driscoll

On January 15, the U.S. Department of Transportation-Federal Railroad Administration and Maryland Department of Transportation released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev Project, commonly known as “the Maglev.” The DEIS describes the proposed project, need, alternatives, current environmental conditions and potential impacts, and possible mitigation strategies. The report includes a comparative analysis between the No-Build Alternative and Build Alternatives so that citizens, representatives, stakeholders and businesses can review the potential environmental and human impacts of the Maglev.

The night prior to the DEIS release, the Maryland Coalition for Responsible Transit hosted a virtual public town hall to discuss the impacts of the Maglev project in Prince George’s County, including safety concerns, greenhouse gas emissions, environmental impacts, road congestion, community impacts, and alternative project ideas. Among the guest speakers were Dr. Owen Kelly, a NASA scientist whose research areas include atmospheric science, and Sam Droege, a wildlife biologist at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

Kelly challenged the Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR), the company working to develop the Maglev, on its assertions that it would reduce carbon dioxide emission by 2 million short tons. “The only way I can see to do it is first you ignore the carbon dioxide to build the track. Then you ignore the carbon dioxide to generate the electricity that runs the train, and you only calculate the carbon dioxide in the advertised reduction in car travel, multiply it by a few decades, and you can get 2 million short tons in reduction,” said Kelly.

On the Facts page of the BWRR website, the FAQ regarding neighborhood and environmental impacts states that federal agencies will analyze the proposed project’s potential consequences. “If you see numbers on their website or Facebook and there aren’t background papers explaining how they got those

numbers, you should be somewhat suspicious,” Kelly says. He published a blog post on the Sierra Club website detailing his calculations, positing that at between \$5513 and \$8269 per metric ton of reduced greenhouse gas emission, “Even if BWRR were correct ... the maglev would still be an embarrassingly expensive way to fight global warming.” Effective methods of reducing carbon dioxide emissions cost \$100 per metric ton.

Droege spoke to the physical pathway of the Maglev, which would travel through the largest conservation area along the I-95 corridor between here and New York City. This protected area is comprised of federal lands owned by the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, and state, county and private lands. He points out that the area functions as a whole, and “animals don’t know about boundaries, but they cross back and forth.” The habitat fragmentation that the Maglev project would cause would be detrimental to endangered species and habitats that do not exist elsewhere.

Droege raised another concern regarding the transfer of federal conservation lands to a private corporation. “This is precedent-setting,” he said. “None of these conservation areas, which have existed over 100 years, have ever been transferred to a private corporation.” He notes that this area is the only above-ground section of the entire project. “You could build another train line somewhere else, you cannot build another research center and animal conservation community somewhere else, so I ask you whether this is an appropriate giveaway of our lands.”

The City of Greenbelt has hired Jill Grant and Associates, an environmental law firm, to go through the environmental review process and make challenges and cases on behalf of the city. The DEIS is available for public review at [bwmaglev.info/index.php/project-documents/deis](http://bwmaglev.info/index.php/project-documents/deis). There is a 90-day comment period, ending April 22, 2021. Comments can be submitted by email to [info@bwmaglev.info](mailto:info@bwmaglev.info), by U.S. mail or through the online comment form at [bwmaglev.info](http://bwmaglev.info).



PHOTO BY MARY LOU WILLIAMSON

Wintersweet, *Chimonanthus praecox*, opens its fragrant blooms any warm sunny day January into March - the fragrance fills the garden.

# Community Events

## At the Library

Curbside service is available Tuesdays through Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m., and Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m. Customers may place new hold requests via the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System catalog ([catalog.pgcmlls.info/polaris](http://catalog.pgcmlls.info/polaris)) or Ask a Librarian Telephone Reference service at 240-455-5451. When notified that held items are available, customers may book pickup appointments through the PGCMLS website ([pgcmlls.info](http://pgcmlls.info)) or the Telephone Reference service. Schedule only one appointment for pickup unless there are more than 50 items to be retrieved. Items for pickup should be retrieved from the tables placed outside the lower-level entrance. Curbside service will continue during inclement weather except in dangerous conditions, such as thunderstorms, tornado warnings or ice storms. Call 301-699-3500 and ask for Public Services or use the link at [pgcmlls.info/contact-us](http://pgcmlls.info/contact-us) for assistance.

All Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) students have access to the library’s online resources with their LINK card number. Adults may register for a free virtual library card or renew an existing card at [pgcmlls.info](http://pgcmlls.info).

Biblio Consulta: The Library’s Spanish language call center is available at 240-455-5451 (press option 2) Tuesdays through Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m.

### Homeschool Help

Wednesday, February 3 at 11 a.m. Need help using the digital history resources available from PGCMLS? Working on projects about African American history? Register at [pgcmlls.info/event/4796503](http://pgcmlls.info/event/4796503). The meeting link will be sent the day of the program. Limit 15.

### Learning from Home

The PGCMLS supports learning from home with a wide array of online educational resources for students in grades K-12. In September 2020, the Library launched the new Resources for Learning from Home portal at [pgcmlls.info/school](http://pgcmlls.info/school). The portal complements the Library’s Homework Support Suite to enhance virtual learning for local students.



## Senator Pinsky Seeks Scholarship Applicants

State Senator Paul Pinsky is offering a scholarship to current high school seniors and to full-time and part-time degree-seeking undergraduate and graduate students who live in the 22nd legislative district. The application is available online at [senatorpinsky.org](http://senatorpinsky.org). Complete and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in addition to Pinsky’s scholarship application. Selection is based on academic achievement, financial need and commitment to higher education. Awards range from \$500 to \$2,000.

Awards from previous academic years will be renewed automatically as long as the student has maintained satisfactory academic progress. For further information or questions call 301-858-3155 or email [paul.pinsky@senate.state.md.us](mailto:paul.pinsky@senate.state.md.us). The deadline is April 1.

## Radio Play Auditions

Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC) will hold auditions over Zoom by appointment on Thursday and Saturday, February 4 and 6 for February’s old-time radio plays. Audition slots can be arranged by emailing Director Rikki Howie Lacewell at the address listed on the GAC website, [greenbelartscenter.org](http://greenbelartscenter.org).

In February, the series will feature two short plays – Fiber McGee and Molly: Valentine Candy, and Lights Out: The Locked Room Mystery. There will be three virtual rehearsals, and the final video will be posted on the website on February 28.

Although the actors will appear in the video, these are radio plays and casting will be done based on vocal sound and not age or appearance. All roles are open and everyone is encouraged to audition; this is a great opportunity for beginners who would like to try acting. Participation is entirely virtual. More information and the recordings of previous radio plays are available at the website.



## GHI Bike Committee Seeks New Members

A new year and new opportunities to use your time, talents and energy to help the GHI community. Consider volunteering with the GHI Bicycle Committee. The GHI community is home to a number of cyclists of all ages and abilities which, in turn, makes advocacy important. The committee seeks fresh new faces and ideas to make the community more bicycle friendly for everyone.

The committee meets the third Wednesday of the month, teleconferencing, of course, in the age of Covid-19. To learn more about how to volunteer, contact John Campanile, [jbelltower@yahoo.com](mailto:jbelltower@yahoo.com); Diana McFadden, [bowregard2003@gmail.com](mailto:bowregard2003@gmail.com); Jackson Tan, [jackson.tan.bs@gmail.com](mailto:jackson.tan.bs@gmail.com); or contact the GHI Board Liaison, Bruce Mangum, [bmangum@ghi.coop](mailto:bmangum@ghi.coop).

## Astronomical Society Hosts Virtual Tour

On Thursday, January 28 at 7:30 p.m. the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will present a virtual tour of Green Bank Observatory, home to seven radio telescopes, including the 100-meter dish, the world’s largest steerable radio telescope. Sue Ann Heatherly will lead the facility tour and describe current and future research at Green Bank. All are welcome.

This meeting will be held virtually over Zoom. The Zoom link will be posted before the meeting on the Astronomical Society’s website at [greenbeltastro.org](http://greenbeltastro.org).

## Group Forms to Plan For Electric Vehicles

The City of Greenbelt GREEN TEAM has begun an effort, along with members of the city’s Advisory Planning Board and Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, to propose a standard and plan to develop an electric vehicle fueling infrastructure in Greenbelt. Interested residents are invited to join a virtual meeting to be held on Thursday, January 28 at 7 p.m.

Contact John Lippert at [ecolivingmag@aol.com](mailto:ecolivingmag@aol.com) for the agenda and Zoom access. To avoid problems, give the username as it will appear in Zoom or the phone number that will be used for phoning in.

## Attention Birders

Greenbelt’s First Annual Big Year is here! Whoever records the most species of birds sighted in 2021 up until December 29 (the New Deal Café’s birthday) will receive a gift certificate for dinner for two at the New Deal Café. There will be a citywide category and a backyard category. This contest will be only within the political boundaries of Greenbelt. Pictures are welcome but not required, the contest is on the honor system. What is required is a list of the birds sighted, the date and time sighted for each species and as close to an exact location as possible described.

GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION

Friday January 29 - Thursday February 4

TAKE OUR COMMUNITY SURVEY TODAY!

<https://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/community-survey>

PROGRAM SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE		CONNECT WITH GATe ON
7 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATe Archive
8 am	Democracy Now!	• Repeat of Yesterday's Program
9 am	GATe Classic Film ★ Sports/Drama • 1950	• The Jackie Robinson Story • Jackie Robinson • Directed by Alfred E Green
11 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATe Archive
SAT/SUN	Member Spotlight	• GATe Community Producers
12 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Program • Independent News
1 pm	Science Bowl PGCPS	• Glenn Dale v University Park • Templeton v Tulip Grove
2 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATe Archive
3 pm	GATe Classic Film ★ Sports/Drama • 1950	• The Jackie Robinson Story • Jackie Robinson • Directed by Alfred E Green
5 pm	Science Bowl PGCPS	• Glenn Dale v University Park • Templeton v Tulip Grove
SAT/SUN	Member Spotlight	• GATe Community Producers
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8 pm	GATe Classic Film ★ Sports/Drama • 1950	• The Jackie Robinson Story • Jackie Robinson • Directed by Alfred E Green
10 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Program • Independent News
11 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATe Archive
12 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATe Archive

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STREAMING LIVE at [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream)



In Memoriam

# Remembering My Dad A Thank You to Greenbelt

Thank you to the News Review and to Jim Giese for the recent tribute to my father, Gerald (Jerry) Gough. In it, Mr. Giese reminded me that as children, my siblings and I never fully comprehended Dad's courageous leadership and pursuit of fairness – especially in voting access and equitable public transit. In this and all things, our mother Kathrine (Kathy) joined him to advocate for their shared democratic values, and they spent long nights talking about campaign and legislative strategy.

Their work continued when they moved to California, where dad could be found most weekends manning a voter registration table at one of the local shopping centers. He was proud to have registered over 500 voters in conservative Placer County. He didn't care if those voters were Republicans or Democrats, he simply wanted everyone to have a voice in our government. Of all of my father's admirable qualities, that pure love of people and their well-being was his greatest.

One of those people was Elaine Skolnik, icon of this pa-

per, who also died early this month. Elaine, her husband Al Skolnik, and their colleagues have chronicled an archive of lives well led in their beloved Greenbelt, including those of my parents, Jerry and Kathy. Mrs. Skolnik was a respected friend, and the News Review was eagerly anticipated (and sometimes delivered) by our family.

In search of stories of my parents' lives, what a gift it was to find in the online archives of the News Review many stories of dedication – not only of my parents, but of a cadre of caring citizens who made Greenbelt the ideal place for us growing up. I found the City Council's early land use debates for Metro, Eleanor Roosevelt High School, and the maturation of the town we will always call home. Those dreams have been realized, and new ones are on the horizon. May Greenbelt always be beloved by people who care.

With gratitude,  
*Maureen (Gough) Decombe*  
*Richmond, Calif.*

# Obituaries

## Corp. Christine Peters



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE

Corporal Christine Peters

Corporal Christine Lynn Peters, age 49, died on Thursday, January 14, 2021, from injuries she sustained while on duty on Saturday, January 2. She had been investigating a vehicle crash on Edmonston Road near Sunnyside Avenue.

As a Greenbelt Police Officer during her 22 years of service, she was recognized for her outstanding work and contributions to the community. She revamped the department's Evidence and Property Rooms as one of the

evidence technicians prior to returning to the Patrol Division. She co-ran three Greenbelt Citizen Police Academies.

Corporal Peters grew up in Florida and attended Florida State University in Tallahassee. She began her career in law enforcement with the University of Maryland Police Department before coming to Greenbelt.

Corporal Peters resided in Ellcott City with her husband Jeff and two teenaged children. She was an avid fan of Star Wars and the Baltimore Orioles.

A private funeral was held on January 22, preceded by a funeral procession starting in Greenbelt.

To contribute to the family of Corporal Peters, send a check made payable to the Greenbelt FOP Lodge 32 to Greenbelt Police Station at 550 Crescent Road or use the GoFundMe page at [gofundme.com/f/assistance-for-mpo-christine-peters](https://gofundme.com/f/assistance-for-mpo-christine-peters).

See photos, page 9.

### Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

### CATHOLIC COMMUNITY of GREENBELT

During the pandemic, we gather **VIRTUALLY** for **Liturgy of the Word Sundays, 10:00 a.m.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

For ZOOM link:  
[FDeBernardo@aol.com](mailto:FDeBernardo@aol.com)

Celebrating the Life of  
**GERALD GOUGH**

Saturday, January 30th, 2021  
4:00 PM ET | 3:00 PM CT | 2:00 PM MT | 1:00 PM PT

Join us by computer, tablet, or mobile device, or by dialing in by phone.

More information, a chance to share memories, and the link to our event can be found on the GatheringUs Memorial for Gerald.

[GatheringUs.com/Memorial/Gerald-F-Gough/6265](https://GatheringUs.com/Memorial/Gerald-F-Gough/6265)

Please bring a candle to light in memory of Gerald.

For technical assistance, call or text the GatheringUs Support Hotline at 240-608-6037.

**KEEP CALM AND WEAR A MASK**

**LISTEN to the NEWS REVIEW**  
Visually impaired may listen for free  
Call Metropolitan Washington Ear  
301-681-6636  
No special equipment needed

“Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, ‘Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.’” – Mark 9:35

### Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

### Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://facebook.com/mowattumc)  
301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

In person worship services cancelled for now.  
Live streaming on our Facebook page @mowattumc.  
10 a.m. Sunday mornings

Greenbelt Community Church

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
a just world for all

Whoever you are and wherever you are on your Spiritual journey, you are welcome HERE.

Join Us on Facebook Live Sunday at 10:15

**Immediately They Left Their Nets Following Jesus**

1 Hillside Road 301-474-6171 Rev. Curt DeMars-Johnson

### Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm  
Saturday morning services at 10:00am  
All services and activities are currently virtual  
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)  
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

### Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

January 31 10 a.m.

### "The Other Side of the Self"

Rev. Russ Savage, Interim Caretaker Minister; with Worship Associate Susannah Schiller

Each of us has a whole aspect of ourselves we hardly know. Sometimes it emerges when we are under stress or other unusual times. When it does, it may surprise and frighten us. Let us reflect on this unseen aspect of the self and how we might better know and understand it.

ONLINE ONLY. Streaming information at <http://pbuuc.org/news/>

Worship with us at

### Greenbelt Baptist Church

Biblical  
Confessional  
Reformed  
Gospel Centered

Join us OUTSIDE Sundays at 10:00am/Wednesdays (online) at 7:00pm  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)  
Instagram/Facebook/YouTube

<<101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt MD>>  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)  
301-474-4212  
 @GreenbeltBaptist

The Bible Says...

For You formed my inward parts;  
You wove me in my mother's womb.  
I will give thanks to You,  
For I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.  
Psalms 139:13-14

### Sunday Worship Services

10a-11a ONLINE  
[MCFcc.org/online](http://MCFcc.org/online)

### ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

RETURN TO PUBLIC CELEBRATION

With joy, we return to the public celebration of Mass. Attendance is limited to 100 persons per Mass, all (3 and up) must wear masks. All details available on our website. Mon-Fri 7:15am, Sat 9am; Sat vigil 5pm; Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am  
Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm

135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)



City Notes

The Museum’s virtual lecture about Maryland’s Green Book Sites attracted 70 viewers. City Planning continued research on the proposed Maglev train.

Sustainability/Environmental presented a composting workshop and an electronics recycling event. Refuse/Recycling collected 28.26 tons of refuse and 12.85 tons of recyclables.

Recreation offerings, mostly online, are continually updated on the Virtual Recreation Center on the city website (greenbeltmd.gov). The Aquatic & Fitness Center indoor pool re-opened, but Family Swim is still on hold.

Winter Arts Programming on Zoom features 26 visual arts classes and workshops including a painting workshop for Girl Scouts.

The Community Center hosted a GAIL/CARES produce and diaper distribution. Therapeutic Recreation created Senior Activity Bags and provided frozen meals to 40 seniors. CARES’ Liz Park addressed middle school counselors about Youth Service resources.

According to park rangers, many visitors (most masked) have been enjoying parks for exercise, photography and fishing. After one cat adoption, the Animal Shelter houses three cats and three dogs.

Connect Across Greenbelt

Those who would like to see Greenbelt better connected and forge paths to equity can join a conversation and creatively deepen their support with community connections. Connecting Across Greenbelt (CAG) is a group of residents who gather virtually to build relationships across neighborhoods and to understand current challenges for all Greenbelters. A multi-cultural, multi-racial and multi-generational group of Greenbelters, CAG is working to enhance quality of life through connections and relationships. To research ways to cope in these difficult times, the group is building a Caring and Connecting Toolkit (bit.ly/CAGtoolkit) in association with leading mental health and community health leaders. Ideas are welcome.

The group’s next meeting is Monday, February 22, and the topic will be yoga nidra and mindfulness. For more information, email communityconnections.gb@gmail.com.

Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY 1-5

Monday, February 1 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION re: COVID-19 Relief Spending/Housing Security Plan Petition, (Virtual)**, Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and Streaming at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv)

Tuesday, February 2 at 7:00pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**. On the Agenda: Mayor’s Proposal on Police Reform.

Wednesday, February 3 at 7:30pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD** On the Agenda: National Capital Planning Commission Concept Review Referral on the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and Update of the Pedestrian and Bicyclist Master Plan

Wednesday, February 3 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION re: Work Session – Pre-Budget Meeting, (Virtual)** Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and Streaming at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv)

Thursday, February 4 at 5:30pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**  
In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltmd.gov).

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000. For information on public participation for the virtual meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov).

CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO ONE OF THE CITY’S CHARITABLE FUNDS

Agency Funds are managed but not financed by the City. All donations to the funds are used for the listed charitable purposes. The City of Greenbelt receives no portion of these funds nor does it charge an administrative fee for processing the donations

Funds include: Good Samaritan Fund, Emergency Assistance Fund, Greenbelt Recreation, and Advisory Committee on Education.

Find out more at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/donations](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/donations).

You can also mail a money order or check to: City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt Road 20770. Please notate which fund in the notes section of the check. You may also use the drop box on the flag side of the building. Receipts will be provided and mailed out to you.

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups.

There are currently vacancies on:

- Advisory Committee on Education
- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- SCMALEV Opposition Task Force
- Youth Advisory Committee

For more information call 301- 474-8000

Grandparents Raising Grandkids

FREE Online Group:

- The challenges of grandparents raising grandchildren
- What’s your hope for 2021?
- Exploring your rights as a grandparent
- What you may feel- Anger, Resentment, Stress, Worry, etc.
- Taking care of yourself



Dates: Wednesdays: February 3 – March 31

Time: 6pm - 7:00pm

To register email: [cares@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:cares@greenbeltmd.gov)



SEEKING LIFEGUARDS AND POOL MANAGERS!

The Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center is now hiring lifeguards!

Apply now at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/jobs](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/jobs)

For city information, meetings, events, services and more visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov)  
Follow @cityofgreenbelt on Facebook and Twitter

GREENBELT CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Regina’s Black Artifacts Popup Museum

Saturday, February 6; 2:00pm–4:00pm

Greenbelt Community Center,

15 Crescent Road

Register for this event at <https://bit.ly/38SfgjX>

Enjoy this journey through time with Historically Black Figures, Black Inventions, Black Artifacts, Now/Then Collectibles and much more.

An Artful Afternoon

Sunday, February 7; 3:00pm; Virtual

Register for this event at <https://bit.ly/2JRZGnY>

3:00 pm: Puppetry Showcase: Enjoy a selection of filmed performances premiering on YouTube. Plus...enjoy a craft-at-home workshop inspired by the rich history of African American quilting traditions.

African Drummers Master Class

Saturday, February 13; 3:00pm-4:00pm

Virtual Instructor: Michael Kweku

Register for this event at

<https://bit.ly/35H2uw5>

Michael Kweku is an artist and craftsman from Accra, Ghana who has spent the last 10 years of his life studying traditional West African drumming, building traditional drums, and working with impoverished children in the Arts Center.

Poetry Slam - Prince George’s County Public School Students

Sunday, February 14; 2:00-3:00pm; Virtual

Register for this event at

<https://bit.ly/38JSzYv>

Tune-in to local Prince Georges County artists ages 13 through 19 as practitioners of the spoken word arts.

Enslaved Life and Labor on Maryland Plantations

Saturday, February 20; 2:00pm-3:00pm

Virtual Presenter: Dr. Leigh Ryan

Register for this event at

<https://bit.ly/3oMHTO6>

What was life like for those enslaved on a Maryland plantation? Where did they live? What kinds of work did they do? How did they resist? This overview will offer some answers to these and other questions.

Visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation) for complete descriptions, schedule of events and to register.

Female RE-Enactors of Distinction (FREED)

Sunday, February 21

2:00pm-3:00pm; Virtual

Register for this event at

<https://bit.ly/38JRX5a>

The Female RE-Enactors of Distinction is a group of ladies who desire to teach American history that perhaps has been forgotten or overlooked. Please join us in promoting the accomplishments of the African American Civil War Soldiers and the women who supported their fight for freedom.

Desegregating Greenbelt: Family Histories of the Community’s First Black Residents

Thursday, February 25; 7:00pm

Link will be made available at

[www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation)

Did you know that Greenbelt began as a segregated community? Despite the fact that it was built by both Black and white relief workers, only white families would be accepted as residents and it would remain segregated for several decades after its founding in 1937. Join the Greenbelt Museum to learn about the community’s first residents of color.

Belly Dancers of Color Collective Class

Saturday, February 27; 3:00pm-4:00pm

Virtual Instructors: Leila Nelson and Adina Gittens-Smith

Register for this event at

<https://bit.ly/3ilzxec>

Belly Dancers of Color Collective was formed in 2015. This class will blend the traditional belly dance form with African, Caribbean dance styles.

Musical Performance from ERHS Gospel Choir

Sunday, February 28 ; 2:00pm

<https://youtu.be/LYVPQz1Aks>

Enjoy a Previously Recorded Performance

Under the direction of Michele Fowlin, the Eleanor Roosevelt Choir has performed for numerous political and social events throughout the DC Metropolitan Area.





# Council, Legislators Discuss Covid Relief, Roads, and More

by Kathleen Gallagher

Back in the olden days before Covid-19, the Greenbelt City Council held two dinner meetings during the time of the Maryland General Assembly each year. The first meeting, where councilmembers presented the city’s legislative priorities to its representatives, was held in Greenbelt prior to the opening of the session. The second meeting, where the delegation updated city officials on how the session was going, was held in Annapolis.

On January 6, this year’s preliminary meeting was held on Zoom. In addition to all the members of the city council, the following were present: State Senator Paul Pinsky; State Delegates Anne Healey, Alonzo Washington and Nicole Williams; and County Councilmember Todd Turner.

The city presented an exceptionally long list of priorities this year, including Coronavirus Relief Funding; Greenbelt Road Streetscape Improvements; Greenbelt Metro Station Improvements; Statewide Police Reform; Opposing the Bureau of Engraving and Printing Facility at BARC; Blocking the Maglev Train Routes Through Greenbelt and Prince George’s County; Opposing Transfer and Potential Privatization of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway; and Opposing Beltway Widening.

### CARES Money

Mayor Colin Byrd thanked Turner for extending some of the federal CARES money to municipalities this year. He also asked whether, given that the federal government had not provided enough support for fighting the coronavirus, the state might provide additional help to the county. Pinsky replied that on the federal level the Democrats had included much more in their proposal to support both state and local government, but unfortunately that was not funded. He said there is hope for additional support with President Joe Biden now in office, but otherwise he had to be honest in saying that assistance for local government – which includes both county and municipal – has not been a top priority. He added that a long queue has formed for funding.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts asked about the status of legislation to protect renters from eviction. He said there seem to be too many holes in the federal legislation, and he hopes the state will take some action. Pinsky replied that this is clearly one of the big issues.

Byrd asked about locations for administering vaccines other than the Wayne Curry Sports and Learning Center. Turner replied that as more eligible groups come online and increase the overall number of people seeking vaccine, additional sites will be added. Turner emphasized that it will be important to manage expectations, in the sense that at this point time frames are running through June. He also stressed the role elected officials need to play in encouraging people to be vaccinated.

Councilmember Emmett Jordan noted that there has been a lot of emphasis on renters and evictions but not much on home-

owners, homeowner associations (HOAs) and mortgage foreclosures. Turner replied that the problem with that is that the funding the county receives is earmarked for rental. He added that this is a topic that they need to discuss with their federal partners to provide more flexibility. Jordan said it will be “devastating” if there is a run of mortgage foreclosures when funding runs out in March.

Pinsky pointed out that, unlike the federal government, the General Assembly can spend only what it gets. “Unlike the federal government,” he said, “we cannot print money.”

Councilmember Edward Putens backed up what Jordan had said about homeowners also needing support. “That is my priority,” he said, noting that the city’s taxes will come due in July, and deficits there will have a big impact on everyone. Increasingly, he said, it is the case that people are not working and cannot pay their HOA fees or their mortgages and taxes. He stressed that this needs attention now and that “we cannot be having people’s homes taken away.”

### Homeowner Bills

Williams pointed out that there are some homeowner bills being sponsored, and Washington encouraged people to get involved and comment on what is proposed. He said this year’s legislative session will be much more transparent than most because so much of it will be on Zoom rather than Webex. He encouraged people to be actively engaged in what is going on.

Byrd expressed concern over what he had heard will be lower limits on the numbers of speakers who can testify on bills this session. Pinsky reminded him that they had been unable to finish

the session last year because of the coronavirus. This year they are trying to make plans to get through the whole session. Since they cannot limit the number of bills submitted, all they can do to control time is to limit testimony.

“The goal is to give every bill some time but not indefinite time,” Pinsky said. “We had to do limits even though there will be some disappointments.”

For the most part, the remainder of the meeting comprised a relatively brief discussion of the status of various items. Jordan asked what to expect from the sports betting bill that passed by a wide margin in the fall election. Washington said the bill itself needed a good bit of work to assure it would accomplish what was intended, including that the proceeds go to support education. Turner added that there might be a little money from it this year. Healey said it is a priority of the delegation.

Regarding the last three items on the city’s list (Maglev, B-W Parkway and widening of the Beltway) Pinsky said they support the city’s opposition to all three.

Washington said he supports the city’s positions in being anti-Maglev and supportive of improvements to the Greenbelt Metro Station.

Roberts also asked about the planned relocation of the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing to land on the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). It appeared that the delegation was also supportive of the city’s opposition toward that project, but Turner indicated that although he had written to object to certain environmental issues, he wanted the city to understand that he was not objecting across the board.

See LEGISLATION, page 11

## Fish Restocking



Maryland Department of Natural Resources delivers rainbow trout from the fish hatchery to restock the Lake on January 12. The fish leave the truck by a hose that takes them directly into the water. Stragglers are scooped up by a net and released into their new home. Fisher folk seem to have gotten the news quickly, as there has been a dramatic increase in fishing.

- Photos by Carol Roth



Greenbelt

COOP

Supermarket Pharmacy



Great Selection of  
Wine & Beer



WE CAN FREE UP YOUR TIME  
THREE NIGHTS A WEEK!

In Historic Roosevelt Center  
[www.greenbelt.coop](http://www.greenbelt.coop)



Meatless Monday Dinner - Features Favorites from  
Macro Vegetarian and Dodah's Kitchen  
Wednesday Dinner - Roast Chicken Family Deal  
Fish Friday Dinner - Healthy Fish Fillet

Pre-order Dinner 301-474-0522 by 1 pm. Pick-up Dinner between 4-7 pm.



# Council Contributes to Peters, Covid-19 Worksession Slated

by Cathie Meetre

A contribution to the fund for Corporal Chris Peters who died on January 14 (see story in last week's paper) was unanimously supported by the Greenbelt City Council at their January 11 meeting. At the time of the meeting, the officer, injured in the line of duty, was still hospitalized in critical condition. With broad support, Mayor Colin Byrd suggested that the contribution should be direct (not through an online intermediary) while Councilmember Rodney Roberts proposed increasing it to \$2,500 – with unanimous agreement. Councilmember Judith Davis, though voting in favor of the motion, was concerned about setting a precedent and asked Assistant City Manager David Moran to research whether the city has previously made such donations. Council also supported the purchase of lightweight Kevlar helmets for the police.

### Covid-19 Assistance

Council was united that additional action needed to be taken to assist residents struggling with the effects of Covid-19 on their life in responding to an agenda item proposed by Byrd. Davis suggested that a worksession would be the best way to handle the details of an agenda item outlining a proposed Covid-19 relief package. Councilmembers Emmett Jordan and Silke Pope were both concerned that insufficient information was known about the city's financial situation to assume that there would really be \$1.3M available and expressed apprehension about committing that sum of money at this time, with the new city budget not being available for consideration until March. Jordan pointed out that the \$1.3M was not a surplus, but a projection of the margin between how the city had actually done and the pessimistic assumptions reached earlier. Both councilmembers were concerned that something could happen to shrink the available funds.

Councilmember Edward Putens asked how much financial assistance remains presently and Dr. Elizabeth Parks of Greenbelt CARES said that the remaining approximately \$10K was essentially already committed to applications and that all federal funds had been disbursed, as was required. Putens expressed concern about mortgagees and homeowners. He pointed out that a significant fraction of mortgage payments are property taxes es-crowed by lenders (\$8K to \$11K for some homes) and suggested considering reducing the tax burden for those who have lost employment.

Byrd assured Putens that the discussion would include both renters and homeowners and emphasized the urgent need to get something moving before February. Davis suggested January 27 for a worksession on the topic and Byrd asked staff to provide definitions, financial information and other background for the items described in the agenda item to assist in discussion. At the suggestion of Councilmember Leta Mach, the assistance and housing topics on the agenda were referred to the same work-session.

### Greenbelt West Board

A proposal submitted by Byrd to implement a Greenbelt West Advisory Board launched council into sometimes strained discussions involving the complexities of potential lingering institutional racism in the city, the at-large form of representation in council and the differing provision of and access to city resources by geographic area. (Note: Four members of council live in Greenbelt East, three in the core and none in Greenbelt West and there is minimal or no participation on city boards by Greenbelt West residents).

Byrd raised the lack of representation on council and on city boards by residents of Greenbelt West. Councilmembers were also concerned about this but Davis pointed out that there are openings on most city boards which would welcome applicants from Greenbelt West, but that no such applications have been received. She alluded, however, to the city's Advisory Planning Board which she described as "very popular" in that there are usually more applicants than positions. Davis noted that a recent Greenbelt West applicant for a spot on the planning board was eventually not accepted because they failed to complete the requirements for the position, despite every encouragement and being accorded a significant length of time to complete them.

Roberts noted that no mission or other background was provided for consideration and also pointed out that with major development

Greenbelt West projects on the drawing board, for example the redevelopment of Beltway Plaza, the lack of representation from the west side of the city was particularly notable.

### A Transient Population?

Byrd said that he didn't accept that transience in the population of Greenbelt West (Franklin Park in particular) was the reason for the dearth of representation, stating that there were many long-term Franklin Park residents. (Editor's note: Statistics provided for 2019 indicate that a typical turnover rate for such a complex would be 40 to 42 percent annually and that the average renter stays for 27 months, though significantly shorter or longer periods occur.)

Byrd also complained that many representatives on boards and on council had been there "20 or even 40 years" and that he thought there should be term limits. This idea failed to resonate with council, some of whom have served for decades.

Council's interactions on the topic included some contention. At one point, Davis, while nodding her head up and down, stated that she thought the mayor expected council to be like bobbleheads saying yes to everything he proposed. The mayor responded that personal attacks were inappropriate.

### Resident Associations

Councilmembers recommended that community leaders implement resident associations to focus concerns and create a

See **COUNCIL**, page 11



Clark Bedford's bus is parked near the Co-op.

- Photos by Rachel Channon



## PRELIMINARY AGENDA GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS Thursday, February 4, 2021

### A. GHI Special Open Session – begins at 7:00pm (open to members and visitors)

- Approve Motion to Hold Executive Session Meeting on February 4, 2021

### B. GHI Executive Session – begins after the GHI Special Open Session meeting adjourns (closed to members and visitors)

- Approve Minutes of Executive Session Meeting Held on January 7, 2021
- Request by a Member for a Rental Permit Extension
- Member Financial Matters
- Member Complaint Matters

### C. GHI Open Session begins at 7.45 p.m. (open to members and visitors)

- Announcement of Formal Hearing Held on January 25, 2021
- Announcement of Executive Session Meeting Held on February 4, 2021
- Approve Minutes of Special Open Session Meeting Held on January 7, 2021
- Approve Minutes of Regular Open Session Meeting Held on January 7, 2021
- Presentation of Consultant's Report re: Survey of Employee Salaries and Benefits
- Request by a Member for a Permit to Install an Electric Charging Station
- Resolution of Incomplete HIP components
- Finance Committee Recommendation re: Fee-Deferral Policy Due to Covid-19
- Investment Committee Recommendation re: Revisions to GHI's Investment Policy

Contact information for attending the Board meeting is as follows:

Topic: **GHI Board of Directors Meeting**

Time: Feb 4, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86587629766?pwd=UDNubDJuMEhVVGNYNnQ0V00z1lxQT09>

Meeting ID: 865 8762 9766

Passcode: 857368

One tap mobile

13017158592,,86587629766#,,,857368# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)



To request a sign language interpreter for a board meeting, go to <http://www.ghi.coop/content/interpreter-request-form>, contact us by phone (301-474-4161) or fax (301-474-4006).

Regular Board meetings are open to Members  
For more information, visit our website: [www.ghi.coop](http://www.ghi.coop)

**From a year of strife and sorrow  
We've learned to value each tomorrow.  
Friends and family loved and lost  
We sadly mourn the lives it's cost.  
To amply make your feelings clear  
To all of those you hold so dear.  
Put Love Notes in the News Review  
To say, I'm filled with love for you**

Submit your Love Notes by email to [ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com) or with payment to the Greenbelt News Review, 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt Community Center, Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

### Rates

50 cents per line, \$1 for each row of hearts  
Ads and payments may also be placed through the News Review door slot (the building is closed due to the pandemic. The door is up a few stairs about 30' to the left of the Community Center entrance that faces the Aquatic Center)  
Submissions MUST be received by 4 p.m.  
Monday, February 8.



My Covid-19 Shot

# A Prince George’s County Vaccination Experience

by Robin Olson

I was one of the lucky ones able to sign up on January 16 through the Maryland State website for a Covid-19 vaccine on Monday, January 25 at the Prince George’s Sports and Learning Complex. I had signed up for Maryland alerts as Governor Larry Hogan suggested and was sent a link. Due to a programming error, the site was open to anyone in Maryland, not just Prince George’s County as originally intended. Thanks, apparently, to Mayor Colin Byrd’s letter to County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, those who were non-residents were cancelled starting January 25, not February 9 as first reported. Those registered were notified by email of the new policy and out-of-county residents were cancelled and told not to come.

My appointment was honored as I am a Greenbelt resident in group 1C in line with the state and county guidelines. Thanks again to Byrd for troubleshooting for me on Sunday with the Health Department that I was still confirmed due to an ambiguous



Robin Olson gets her first Covid-19 shot from a cheerful U.S. Army medic.

PHOTO COURTESY ROBIN OLSON

email I received a few hours after my reminder for the appointment the next day. The staff ran a professional and efficient operation. No lining until 10 minutes before your time. I was in and out within one hour including a delay due to

the computers crashing and the 15 minutes you must wait after the injection. The second dose appointment is set up before you leave. My arm is a little sore and stiff at injection site but no other effects.

## VACCINE continued from page 1

### Fate of Most in Need

Trolling for websites to sign up for is an option open only to those who can handle online activities; the vaccination system is passive on the part of the organizations, who don’t reach out to the public but wait for individuals to sign up. As a result, some individuals are signed up at several sites and the most vulnerable older people, who may lack the computer capability, at none.

### Vaccination HMO Style

An interesting contrast is Kaiser Permanente’s Covid-19 operation. Kaiser is a health maintenance organization (HMO) and all its patients are automatically registered and proactively informed as they become eligible and appointments are available – there’s not the free-for-all evident in the overall approach. Recent experience with them shows, for example, that a drive-through Covid-19 test can be scheduled online the same day – with the results delivered automatically by email only eight hours later. An HMO more closely resembles the centralized health delivery systems found in almost all first-world and some second-world countries.

Sylvia Lewis (News Review board member and display ads coordinator) recently received her first shot at a local Kaiser facility, and said she was very impressed with the process. She had made an appointment for her husband, Robert, for Friday, January 22 at the Kaiser Largo location but in trying to make hers, she tangled unsuccessfully with the website. Immediately after she had made Robert’s appointment, she received a phone call from Kaiser (as Lewis remarks, “by a real person”) who made a Saturday appointment for Sylvia.

When Lewis took her husband on January 22, the whole procedure – registering, getting the shot and waiting 15 minutes to see if there was a reaction –

took one hour. It wasn’t quite as smooth for her shot on Saturday because more people were waiting, so it took 30 minutes to get to registration and then a longer wait to get the shot and the mandatory 15-minute wait. Nonetheless, it was still only two hours altogether. She notes that her only reaction to the shot was a nice long nap.

Another News Review member is also a Kaiser patient whose call came Saturday, January 23. She is 78 and the Lewises are in their 80s, so Kaiser is apparently systematically working through its patient base from higher to lower ages and considering health status. Because Kaiser has all the medical records of its patients’ care and vulnerabilities and reaches out to its patients deliberately, there are no requirements that its members apply, register or fill out any forms. They just check in.

### Future Gains

It is apparent that the pace of vaccinations will pick up as more outlets start dispensing. (In

Seattle, Starbucks coffee shops are part of the network of vaccination centers.) Some major grocery chains and pharmacies are also scheduled to start dispensing vaccinations by the end of the month. Older and most vulnerable Greenbelters are perceptibly beginning to receive shots and the trend is slowly moving in the right direction.

Meanwhile, in Greenbelt let’s all mask up and stay out of harm’s way.

News Review readers are invited to contribute short accounts of their vaccination adventures, positive and negative (not all may be printed). Send them to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com) and, if including a photograph, make sure to attach and not embed it, state who took the photo and give names for who is pictured in it. The newspaper doesn’t need (or want!) to know personal health details.





Nobody Knows Your Name?  
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\$30 puts it here.

[www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com](http://www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com)

## ACE continued from page 1

all to fund registration fees and participation in virtual competitions for student groups. The Science Olympiad is a virtual competition applying STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education to real-world problems. Destination Imagination competitions combine science and engineering challenges with artistic expression. The third ERHS grant will start a competitive intramural eSports league within the school to encourage teamwork and socializing within the virtual environment.

Magnolia Elementary School will receive a grant to purchase math manipulatives that will be distributed to the students to use at home in independent assignments. The manipulatives include number blocks, fraction strips and plastic coins, helping the students to visualize addition, subtraction and the relations between numbers.

Springhill Lake Elementary School won a grant to support their Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) program, which provides incentives and rewards for good behavior. Normally the PBIS program is supported by fundraisers such as movie nights, winter fun nights and the Spring Fest. As those programs are not possible this year, the PBIS rewards will be supported by an ACE grant.

Greenbelt Elementary School (GES) put in a lot of strong proposals this year and was awarded 12 grants. The school also recognized the need for math manipulatives that students could have at home, and there were four grants to support different classes. To

enhance individual instruction, four grants will support a variety of games and materials for the talented and gifted program, STEM books, and reading and math software.

GES also received grants to purchase a set of badminton equipment for gym classes and flexible furniture for the school’s mindfulness space. The only teacher development ACE grant this year will fund attendance at the virtual Maryland State Talented and Gifted Conference.

There was a grant proposal from the GES Parent Teacher Association to address food insecurity issues at the school caused by the pandemic and resulting economic crisis by creating an emergency food bank at the school. Although this does not fit within the scope of the ACE grants program, the ACE committee recommended that council allocate \$600 to each of the six ACE schools to address the emergency, due to the extremely unusual circumstances of this pandemic year. The money will be allocated and managed by Greenbelt CARES, which has agreed to work with the schools.

This is the twelfth year that Greenbelt has distributed ACE grants to the local schools; in total there have been 238 proposals funded at a total cost of \$108,000. ACE’s recommendations were approved by the city council with a unanimous vote, and members expressed appreciation for the efforts that ACE put into reviewing the grant proposals.

*Jon Gardner is a member of ACE.*

## BLACK HISTORY continued from page 1

the fields of education, science and invention, literature, the suffragist movement and sports.

Most programs will require registration and the Popup Museum will have timed entry in order to maintain Covid-19 county protocols for health and safety.

The Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee invites Greenbelt residents to take advantage of this opportunity to learn

and be entertained and to enjoy a temporary respite from some of the challenges the pandemic has caused.

For more information see city ad on page 5 or visit [greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://greenbeltmd.gov/recreation).



### The Greenbelt News Review Seeks a Distributor

This is a paid position that completes Thursday distribution of the newspaper to locations throughout Greenbelt.

*A car is essential. Reliability is a priority.*  
This activity normally takes place on a Thursday and takes 2 hours or less.

It can be done between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Please respond to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com)



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# Funeral Procession for Corporal Peters



The U.S. Park Police helicopter circles just above tree level during the funeral procession for Corporal Christine Peters on January 22.



A chalk drawing memorializes Peters.

PHOTO BY VIJAY PARMESHWARAN



Engine 35 of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department passes under an archway formed at the intersection of Gardenway and Crescent Roads by two ladder trucks from Berwyn Heights and Langley Park Fire Departments for the funeral procession of Corporal Peters. Wind prevented the flying of an American flag from the archway.



Chief John Nesky of the Bowie Police Department pays tribute.



A young relative of Linda Coulter of Eastway views the funeral procession.

- Photos by Glenn Harris



Members of the Greenbelt Community Emergency Response Team participate in the funeral procession.

# Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, [www.greenbeltnmd.gov/police](http://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/police)  
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

## Theft

January 14, 3:58 p.m., 7505 Greenway Center Drive. Cleaning equipment was taken from an office suite.

January 18, 11:43 a.m., 550 Crescent Road. A 41-year-old nonresident was arrested and charged with theft and malicious destruction after he allegedly took a package addressed to the City of Greenbelt and opened it, and damaged property inside the Police Station lobby. He was released on citation pending trial.

January 19, 11:10 a.m., 6301 Golden Triangle Drive. A man entered the lobby of the Sonesta Select Hotel and removed a computer monitor.

January 20, 6:55 p.m., 6100 Breezewood Court. A package was taken from the front stoop of a residence.

## Burglary

January 1, 7:23 p.m., 6303 Ivy Lane. A 25-year-old nonresident was arrested and charged with fourth degree burglary by officers responding to a report of a trespasser in a vacant office suite. He was released on citation pending trial.

## Vehicle Crime

A blue 2005 Toyota Prius Maryland tags 6EJ9023 was taken from the 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace. A 2010 Cadillac Escalade SUV reported stolen December 24 from the 6200 block Breezewood Court was recovered by Laurel police January 18 in the 800 block of Second Street.

Two tags were taken from a vehicle at 151 Westway and were recovered the same day from a parked vehicle in Bowie. Covers were taken from the side view mirrors in the 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace. A pickup truck bed liner was taken from 6 Parkway. An uninstalled headlight was removed at 7927 Mandan Road after a window was broken to gain access.

Driver's side airbags from three vehicles were taken from 7901 Mandan Road after windows had been broken to gain access. Money and a notebook-type computer were also taken from one of them. Another airbag was taken from 7529 Mandan Road.

Handicap placards were taken from two vehicles at 7722 Hanover Parkway after windows were broken to gain access.

A passenger window was broken at 7513 Greenbelt Road and the car was rummaged through but nothing appeared to have been taken.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.  
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BOXED: \$10 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads.

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DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

AD DESK: 301-474-4131 or ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



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See ad on page 7

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COUNCIL continued from page 7

concerted voice for their community and expressed concern that a board tied to a particular area would set a divisive precedent. Putens gave the Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition (GEAC) as an example of a grassroots organization that represents the views of Greenbelt East residents effectively without being council’s instrument. Putens suggested that Franklin Park could base such an association on its original nine neighborhoods but the mayor did not appear to be persuaded by this potential strategy.

The motion to implement a Greenbelt West Advisory Board did not come to a vote, being withdrawn by the mayor before being seconded, although Roberts had offered to do so.

**Greenbelt Road**

Neighboring jurisdictions Berwyn Heights and College Park have requested that Greenbelt join in a working group to thrash out the future of Greenbelt Road. Jordan and Davis volunteered

their assistance. Resident William Orleans requested that such meetings should be open and transparent and the mayor and Putens both echoed that interest.

**Butterflies and Finances**

Council referred to GreenACES an initiative regarding a monarch butterfly joint venture and approved retaining Davenport and Company LLC to perform a comprehensive financial review of the city’s finances, subject to a not-to-exceed amount that is to be agreed upon.

**Participate in Democracy**

Residents have the opportunity to participate in their local government by watching this three-and-a-half-hour council meeting. The video and agenda package, as for all council meetings and worksessions, is available on the city website at [greenbeltmd.gov/government/city-council/minutes-and-agendas](http://greenbeltmd.gov/government/city-council/minutes-and-agendas). Instructions and links for watching or participating in council meetings are contained in the first page of each agenda.

LEGISLATION continued from page 6

Roberts said the problem is that both the county and the state are supporting Maglev. He said what he hopes for from the delegation is not just agreement with the city but letters and action. He wants the delegation and the county to look more closely at the impacts of these projects and to contact U.S. Representative Steny Hoyer. Roberts said all of

the road and transportation projects the city is opposing would impact the Beaver Dam Creek environmental area and that protecting BARC is essential to stopping Maglev.

At this point, there seemed to be agreement on one other issue: that it was time to go find some dinner.

Scenes around Greenbelt



A winter scene is reflected on the water along the Indian Creek Trail near Greenbelt Station.

PHOTO BY LEEANN IRWIN



A new wood chip trail at Schrom Hills Park

PHOTO BY STEVE BUCCA



A Red Fox naps at the Lake.

PHOTO BY GREG FISANICH



Late bloomers in the snow

PHOTO BY ELISABETH KEVORKIAN



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**Estate Sale** GHI 2 Bedroom townhome with hardwood floors, opened kitchen & breakfast bar. Large fenced backyard opens onto protected woodlands.  
**Brick Townhome with Addition** Full bath on main level. Remodeled kitchen & bath. Central A/C, refinished hardwood flrs., shaded & fenced backyard.  
**Large floorplan w/addition** Half bath on main level. Masonry townhome w/ fenced backyard & brick patio. Zoned HVAC system, 11' x 17' master br.  
**Cape Cod SFH** 3br 2 1/2ba home with rem. Kitchen, above-ground pool & wrap-around deck. Finished basement with family room and office space.  
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**4 Bedroom 3 Level Townhome** Master bedroom & full bath on main level. Opened remodeled kitchen, fireplace in lr. Backs to protected woodlands.  
**Townhome with addition** 2 br townhome w/ front laundry/office addition. Opened kitchen, full bath, pantry. Fenced backyard with large deck.  
**Charlestowne Village** Single-level 1-br condo in Greenbelt - no stairs! Parquet flooring throughout. Remodeled kit. With SS appliances. \$149,900  
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Black History

Quilts, Puppet Show, Short Films on Sunday Afternoon

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program welcomes visitors of all ages to an online Artful Afternoon on Sunday, February 7, 2 to 4 p.m. For links and a free materials kit while supplies last, sign up in advance at: <https://bit.ly/2JRZGnY>. This event is provided as part of Greenbelt's Black History Month celebration.

At 2 p.m. join Greenbelt artist and educator Barbara Joann Combs on Zoom for a paper quilt workshop. Make a panel suitable for framing – or create a more complex work of art incorporating panels from multiple household members. This activity takes inspiration from the vibrant designs of Alabama's celebrated "Gee's Bend" quilters, challenging participants to create unique patterns based on observations of their own surroundings. A multimedia activity guide will be provided, including project instructions and links to videos about historical and contemporary African American quilters working in both abstract and pictorial styles.

At 3 p.m. enjoy a free puppetry showcase. The show will premiere on YouTube, and will be followed by a live post-show Zoom meet-up with the puppeteers. Links will be emailed to all guests who pre-register for the Artful Afternoon. The program will include four short films, suitable for adults as well as children. Dirk Joseph and his daughter Azaria, of Maryland's String Theory Theater, will contribute their marionette piece



Marionettes by Dirk Joseph and his daughter Azaria, of String Theory Theater

Collab Story; two siblings stuck at home without their devices find ways to make their own fun. Fellow Marylander Schroeder Cherry will present The Children's Crusade; a grandfather shares his memories of the role played by children in Civil Rights Movement demonstrations. Anthony Michael Stokes of Texas contributes Bawba Sheep's Black; with humor and compassion, the piece conveys experiences of social injustice. North Carolina artist Jeghetto, with his son Tarin Pipkins, presents Time Machine; a mischievous young robot finds himself on an action-packed journey when he tampers with his brother's time machine.

For more information about City of Greenbelt art programs, visit [greenbeltmd.gov/arts](http://greenbeltmd.gov/arts) and the Virtual Recreation Center: [greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://greenbeltmd.gov/recreation).



The making of "Bawba Sheep's Black"



Sample paper quilt panel by instructor Barbara Joann Combs, design based on a flower pot

Day of Service Volunteers Learn About Beavers and Protect Trees

by Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll

On Monday, January 18, tree protection in Buddy Attick Park was the main focus of Greenbelt's Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service. The "Co-Existing with Beavers" volunteer workday, sponsored by the City of Greenbelt Department of Public Works, helped community members learn about beavers, invasive vines and protecting trees from both.

Volunteers assembled around 10 a.m. at the cove on the south side of the lake where Public Works Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll gave a brief introduction to the group and educated the volunteers about beavers, their importance to the ecosystem and the importance of protecting critical native trees. The group used wire caging to encircle native trees to discourage beavers from chewing their trunks. Large trees close to the walking trail were targeted for caging while small trees were left uncaged. This prevents beavers from felling large trees, which can pose a public safety problem, while leaving the smaller trees for beavers to chew on. This allows a safe coexistence with the beavers at Buddy Attick Park.

Staff also instructed volunteers on how to identify English ivy and Japanese honeysuckle and how to safely remove it from trees, protecting them from being over-shaded or girdled by the invasive vines.

Twenty-five spirited volunteers successfully caged approximately 60 trees, removed several yards of invasive vines and totaled 75 hours of community service, all while practicing good social distancing to make this event as safe as possible for everyone.

The day of service in honor of Dr. King was well observed in Greenbelt this year, as this event brought together people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities and as Dr. King famously said, "Everyone can be great because everyone can serve." The next day of service will be in observance of Presidents' Day on Monday, February 15. Details can be found on the City of Greenbelt website: [greenbeltmd.gov/government/departments-con-t/public-works/green-volunteer-opportunities](http://greenbeltmd.gov/government/departments-con-t/public-works/green-volunteer-opportunities).

Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll is the environmental coordinator for the City of Greenbelt.



Volunteers collaborate to remove English ivy from trees at the Lake.



A volunteer puts the finishing touches to a tree's beaver protection plan.



Volunteers attach fencing to a tree to protect it from beavers.

- Photos by Scott Crawford



Male and female merganser ducks swim in the Lake.